

The Eagle's Eye

125th Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard



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TEAM FLORIDA

...Leading the Way



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Front cover: The FLANG's unprecedented growth in the 1980's and 90's has provided our state and nation with unique capabilities that make up TEAM Florida.

Backcover: FLANG humble beginnings represented in pictures from Imeson Airport, Jacksonville, Fla., circa 1947.

Commander's Column

By Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus
Commander, Florida Air National Guard

This edition of The Eagle's Eye will showcase the multiple units of the Florida Air National Guard. From our beginnings in 1947 to today, we have made decisions that have kept us reliable in the current environment and will keep us relevant for tomorrow's tasking.

Our people, missions and our commitment to excellence equates to tremendous success for the organization.

Let me begin this issue by saying thank you for the dedicated Airmen who served before us; those who motivated, inspired, and led us to great achievements.

As we look at the FLANG today, it's not hard to realize we are the product of superb leadership. Leaders who did not fear change and dared to make a difference. Our predecessors willingly accepted risks in order to ensure growth for our organization.

At a time when President Reagan looked at the military and stated his goals for improving quality of life, he also began an aggressive Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) plan that had everyone concerned. Recognize, also, this was a time when the Air National Guard was not participating in Air Expeditionary Force deployments and manpower for new missions was not easy to get. In 1980, we had one mission at the Fighter Wing with an extension to provide alert aircraft in south Florida.

Undaunted by prevailing circumstance of the time, your leadership pressed ahead for growth. As the cover shows, by the end of the 1990's, we had unprecedented expansion to one

wing and 10 geographically separated units.

This year we again find ourselves at a point where the decisions made today will significantly impact the structure of the Florida Air National Guard for the next 25 years.

Unit by unit, we will transform to meet the demands for tomorrow. We have already cut the ribbon on a new Weather Readiness Training Complex and a new Combat Weather Flight facility in January at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. We broke ground for the \$12M Air Operations Center at Tyndall AFB and are poised for the Southeast Air Defense Sector to transform into a world class command and control Air Operations Group.

We have finalized the plan for the 114th Combat Communications Squadron to become, through an official Program Change Request (PCR), a Range Operations Squadron and we will be adding yet an additional space mission called Defensive Counter Space to the unit, along with Eastern Range Control and the exciting Ballistic Missile Range Safety Technology (BMRST).

The F-15 Associate Unit is proving each day how valuable they are to the 325th Fighter Wing; the 290th is preparing for more overseas combat deployments that proves how useful and relevant they are and the 202nd Red Horse is leading the way by preparing for an Operational Readiness Inspection and jointly supporting the new CERFP mission with the 125th Medical Group for rapid response to attacks from Weapons of Mass Destruction.

All of these missions continue to be supported by the mighty

125th
Fighter
Wing
which
is also
fully
engaged

in ORI preparation.

The sustainment of the alert mission and a myriad of activities in areas of support, maintenance, and operations make it the busiest and most productive wing in the nation.

Our Jacksonville location, we feel, is primed for growth and the senior leadership team is publicizing our desire for expansion there while we boast about having the best supersonic training airspace in the country.

Bottom line...we are making decisions now that keep us ready, reliable, and relevant. We are also proud to say that our recruiting is 100 percent (+) and our loss rate is less than 3 percent. Very few states in the country can claim these statistics.

Our successes can not be achieved without the continued involvement of the entire team. You will hear from each State Director in this issue and will also come to realize that my approach to running our organization is to create a confluence of energy with all the different units coming together and contributing to the decision process.

Additionally, I will continue to rely on the "Councils" to assist me in making appropriate decisions.

I thank you for the privilege of commanding the Florida Air National Guard and look forward to seeing many of you as I travel the state.

Enjoy this issue of The Eagle's Eye!



WRTC gets a new look

By Maj. Loretta J. Lombard
Weather Readiness Training Center Commandant

The Weather Readiness Training Center (WRTC) and the 159th Weather Flight, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Starke, Fla. opened new facilities Jan. 21, 2005, during a formal ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, the adjutant general of Florida.

The WRTC moved from the old, World War II era schoolhouse into its new 10,300 square foot facility just after the New Year without skipping a beat in its training operations.

The center is state-of-the-art and fully wired for access to all the computer-based tools necessary to perform the weather support mission. Five classrooms accommodate 12 students each.

A three-building dormitory complex was also part of the construction project and is now available for use by the WRTC, the 202nd Red Horse Squadron and the 159th Weather Flight. The 42 dorm rooms provide comfortable and convenient accommodations.

"These rooms are REALLY nice", is a comment frequently heard from the students who attend 120 plus days of training at the WRTC.

Each room can house two people and contain world-class amenities providing an ideal environment for focusing on training and then relaxation after a hard day's work.

The WRTC is staffed by 19 full-time personnel focused on two key mission areas: Follow-On-Training (FOT) and the Field Training Element (FTE). FOT has ten instructors and the Training Director focused on training National Guard and active duty Airmen and sailors in hands-on



Airman Keegan Iverson cuts the ribbon for the new Weather Readiness Training Center located at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Starke, Fla., January 21, 2005.

weather skills needed to operate in a joint combat environment. Four instructors are active duty members from the Air Force Combat Weather Center, Hurlburt Field, Fla. partnered with the ANG team members.

"To produce personnel who are capable of providing high-quality mission execution weather support to Air Force and Army war fighters anywhere, at any time" is the mission statement of the WRTC.

Our graduates have served commendably in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations around the globe providing mission support to combatant commanders.

The Field Training Element is a new mission area chartered by ANG Weather to support the training needs of Combat Weather Teams (CWTs) that are embedded in 54 ANG flying units nationwide. This support is provided through phone contact (advisory/help function), Staff Assistance Visits, Mobile Training Teams and Internet-based information centers.

The FTE hosts a Community of Interest (COI) on the Air Force Portal where sample products are posted for CWT tailoring and use.

Although the FTE COI was created to provide support to the embedded CWTs, anyone can request to be part of the community. The FTE became operational Jan. 3, 2005 and is comprised of four AGR personnel.

Both mission areas are assisted in achieving their goals by a dedicated and efficient support team. They do an outstanding job maintaining over 100 computers, eight military vehicles, personnel and medical records for the students and staff members, and dealing with the myriad of other issues a Geographically Separated Unit faces each day.



Photos courtesy of the WRTC

The new Weather Readiness Training Center facilities on Avenue C, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. Inset photo: The old World War II era WRTC building.

159th named 'Outstanding Unit'

By Lt. Col. Stephen M. Longobardi
159WF Commander

It was nearly a month after the Christmas holidays, but members of the 159th Weather Flight, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, received two rather impressive gifts.

The first gift was a very long awaited one. For nearly 2 ½ years the 159th members have painstakingly watched and waited as their new facility was built.

Finally, Jan. 21, 2005 the 159th proudly unveiled its new home during a joint, grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony of the Weather Readiness Complex.

This new complex houses not only the 159th's new facility but also a facility that belongs to the Weather Readiness Training Center (WRTC) and an 80 person dormitory that will be used cooperatively by the members of the 159th, the 202nd Red Horse and the WRTC students.

The complex is comprised of nearly 73 acres and approximately 30,000 total square feet of office, storage and dormitory space.

The 159th's facility is comprised of offices and storage to accommodate its 15 member organization to include: a fully functional Weather Operations area, conference area, administrative and planning offices, communications room, break room, storage area and latrine facilities.

The second "gift" received by the 159th members was one

that came as a complete and total surprise.

During the grand opening ceremonies mentioned above, several attendees, distinguished guests, family and friends were at the 159th for a tour of the new facility.

During the tour the former Commander of the Florida Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw, Jr. and the Commander of Air Force Weather, Brig. Gen. Thomas Stickford called upon the 159th Commander, Lt. Col. Steve Longobardi and NCOIC, SMSgt. Jon Carillon to stand before the group.

At that moment and unbeknownst to the 159th staff, the citation to accompany the award for the OUTSTANDING

distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious service from 1 June 2003 to 31 May 2004. During this period, the 159th Weather Flight accomplished its mission with a maximum degree of readiness.

The professionalism, knowledge, and technical skills of the 159th Weather Flight personnel contributed directly to the fulfillment of national objectives.

The 159th Weather Flight deployed 58% of its personnel to seven locations in the United States, and five countries in Europe, Central Asia, and Southwest Asia to provide weather support for combat operations for Operations NOBLE EAGLE, ENDURING FREEDOM, and IRAQI FREEDOM to the United States Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and coalition armed forces.

The 159th Weather Flight also passed a Unit Compliance Inspection from the Air Combat Command Inspector General.

The 159th Weather Flight was in compliance with 94% of the items inspected, and had zero findings.

The distinctive accomplishments of the members of the 159th Weather Flight reflect great credit on themselves and the United States Air Force.

The 159th Weather Flight was one of only 10 units selected for this distinction across the entire Air National Guard.

I guess good things can come to those who wait!



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill
159th Weather Flight Commander, Lt. Col. Stephen Longobardi (3rd from left) is presented with the Outstanding Unit Award, Jan. 21, 2005. Pictured from left to right are Senior Master Sgt. Jon Carillon, WRTC Superintendant; Brig. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw, Jr., AAG-Air, and Brig. Gen. Thomas Stickford (USAF Director of Weather).

UNIT was read and presented by BG's Titshaw and Stickford to the Commander, NCOIC and members of the 159th Weather Flight.

The citation reads as follows: *The 159th Weather Flight, Florida Air National Guard,*

SEADS becoming the 601AOG

By Col. Charles M. Campbell
SEADS Commander

Hijacked Airliners, rogue aircraft, cruise missiles, un-piloted vehicles: threats to our country, our economy and our way of life! Hopefully U.S. law enforcement will keep these threats from ever getting airborne.

However, if they do, it will be the responsibility of the US Theater Air Control System to stop and avert the attack.

SEADS has been a critical piece of our nation's air defense operation for decades.

The terrorist attacks that occurred on 9/11 did not change that, however, our operations tempo and area of responsibility did.

The SEADS mission prior to 9/11 was to defend against an external attack from outside the CONUS.

Ultimately, 9/11 changed the scope of the air defense mission in the US and we are now responsible for reacting to the full spectrum of air breathing threats to our country.

To accomplish this mission we are an integral piece of a rapidly transforming and modernizing air defense system.

North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) is in a state of transformation, preparing our people and resources for the threat/mission of the future.

A major part of the road map involves transforming one of three sectors to a new Air Operations Group (AOG) that will be part of the USAF's War-fighting Headquarters.

This will be accomplished by deactivating SEADS, and standing up the 601AOG in its place. As we transform into the WFHQ partnership, we will fulfill a vital role in the nation's Homeland Defense mission providing defensive counter-air capabilities to NORAD for traditional air defense in accordance with the NORAD Agreements and full spectrum air and space capabilities in support of USNORTHCOM in its

Homeland Defense and Civil Support missions. The transformation will begin a vibrant new mission that will remain relevant into the foreseeable future.

So, what will we be doing when we take on the AOG mission?

I'll begin with what we will not be doing.

We will no longer directly control aircraft, and we will no longer accomplish day-to-day air sovereignty tasks at the tactical level. As an AOG operating the USAF AN/USQ-163 weapons system, we will produce, execute, and analyze Air Tasking Orders (ATO), Airspace Control Orders (ACO) and ground based Area Air Defense Plans (AADP) for the entire Continental United States (CONUS), US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The ATO and ACO are the formal orders that task personnel and resources to conduct the “air war” (in this case, air defense of the CONUS). The ATO process is a continuous and cyclical effort at the “operational-theater” level of warfighting that entails constant planning for future taskings (some over one year out), accomplishing the current tasking, and assessing our results to look at how we can do things better.

We will also execute the AOG Combat Operations mission for the Joint Forces Air Component Commander.

Combat Ops maintain a current intelligence, resource and air common operating picture to ensure that the nation's key decision makers have the information and resources they need to react to any air threat to the nation.

The “Transformation Train” has left the station.

We have already begun moving our people to the new AOG manning document and have been sending our personnel to various schools for over a year.

In March, our first candidates began the Academy of Military Science commissioning process.

Construction on our new AOG facility will start this spring, and we are working closely with the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS) to train their people on the specifics of the air defense mission as it applies to the southeastern US (a mission they will take over when we formally transform SEADS).

We are proud of our FLANG heritage and we are excited about bringing this new mission to the great FLANG team.



Graphic courtesy of SEADS

Associate Detachment part of the *Future Total Force*

By Col. Billy T. Graham, Jr.
325FW ANG Associate Detachment, Commander

The Future Total Force is a hot discussion topic in the Air Force, but the FLANG Associate Detachment at Tyndall AFB has been a part of Future Total Force for 5 ½ years.

Our unit (at times referred to as Detachment 1, Southeast Air Defense Sector) was the first ever ANG fighter associate program. Activated October 1999, the Det. integrated Florida ANG pilots into the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall AFB, the primary location for initial training of new F-15C pilots.

Initially there was active duty resistance to bringing in “the Guard”, but great leadership quickly turned that perception around. A joint decision was made for the Guard instructors to appear seamless by wearing the patches of their assigned active duty squadron.

Students could not tell the difference between Guard and active duty instructors, plus the Guardsmen began picking up some of the “active duty” additional duties.

This helped build the cohesiveness which makes this program a success.

I continue this policy today, and the ANG instructors are a welcome addition to the 325FW Air Dominance team.

The 325FW Associate Det. has 15 AGR and 18 DSG Instructor Pilot (IP) positions totally embedded into all aspects of the

three 325FW F-15 Fighter Squadrons (1st, 2nd, and 95th) as well as the Operational Support Squadron.

We make up roughly one fourth of the total IP force and hold or have held nearly every leadership job in the squadrons short of the Squadron Commander position. In addition, some of our members were section chiefs in Group and Wing level programs such as Weapons, Training, Standards/Evaluations and Aerospace Physiology. The caliber of IPs representing the Guard has not gone unnoticed.

All the Det. AGR IPs are Operations Supervisor (Top 3)

and her enlisted support staff step in.

Behind the scenes is a cadre of dedicated Airmen keeping things running smoothly and ensuring everyone gets trained and paid.

The integration has worked well at Tyndall from an operators’ perspective and is being used as a model for similar units around the CAF.

This “association” allow active duty personnel to gain new insight into the ANG, specifically, the stability and experience provided by a Guard unit. As the Air Force continues to transform under the Future Total Force

makeover, the relationship and foundation the Det. has established at Tyndall can only help in presenting an opportunity for the ANG to become part of that ever growing plan.

Although at the Det. we do not have a Guard unique visually identifying patch

to wear day to day, we are proud members of the FLANG and definitely part of the rich heritage the Guard represents.

Our aim is to remain the premiere ANG fighter associate unit training the best air dominance pilots.

If the need arises or the opportunity presents itself for future missions, you can be sure we will be ready to answer the call.



Photo courtesy of the 325FW Associate Det.

A six-ship formation from Tyndall AFB flies over Florida's panhandle.

qualified. Two thirds are flight examiners', while the same number upgrade and train new IP's. All the DSG IPs are Supervisor of Flying (SOF) qualified. On any given day, if you removed the Guard names off the flying schedule, the mission would be very difficult, if not impossible to accomplish.

Of course, no job is complete until the paperwork is done.

That is where the hard working enlisted force, led by Master Sgt. Cecilia Grimm,

2004-2005 a busy time for the 202nd

By Col. Wallace J. "Jack" Paschal
202RHS Commander

In January 2004 the 202nd RED HORSE Squadron (RHS), with support and staffing from the 125th Medical Group, formed Florida's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or High-Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP). This specialized team, one of only 12 nation-wide, consists of three elements trained to respond to WMD incidents: medical, decontamination, and search/extraction. The team, an all-volunteer force since June 2004, conducted training through the hot summer months.

After the initial training concluded, in August 2004 an external evaluation of the medical and decontamination elements was conducted by 1st United States Army - Weapons of Mass Destruction Division, marking the first time an all Air National Guard, non-chemical unit was evaluated by the Army division. The Florida team earned a 96 percent; the highest rating of any state evaluated by 1st Army.

Also, the Air Combat Command (ACC) Inspector General (IG) conducted a Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) in August 2004. The three-day-long inspection required many hours of preparation and started immediately upon our return from one year of partial mobilization to Southwest Asia. Due to the outstanding efforts of the entire squadron, the 202RHS was awarded a 95 percent in-compliance rating from the Inspector General.

The inspectors departed Florida just as Hurricane Charley was approaching South Florida, just as our Airmen were being activated for State Active Duty. None of us could have known that three additional hurricanes would hit Florida from all different directions and that we would be working more than two months supporting the cleanup efforts. This effort demanded 100 percent participation from the squadron, deploying construction teams to more than half a dozen locations all over our damaged state. Task Force Engineer responded to each of the four hurricanes (Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne) providing debris removal and school clean-up from Daytona to Miami and from Starke to Pensacola.

Currently, 12 of our members (affectionately referred to as the "dirty dozen") are deployed to Southwest Asia (SWA) with another ANG RED HORSE unit in Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, and the Horn of Africa. These Airmen volunteered to help fill critically-needed positions for our



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill

Airmen from the 202nd Red Horse Squadron remove debris during 2004 hurricane relief operations throughout Florida.

RED HORSE friends to the North (200/201RHS from Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively). They are due to return in August or September 2005, then turn around in December 2006, and prepare to go back when our own squadron mobilizes and deploys in January 2007.

This year, our primary focus is preparing for the Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) scheduled for February 2006, with major emphasis on our war skills training and mobility preparedness.

This ORI will be a joint effort with the balance of our squadron from the 203RHS in Virginia, and will validate the ability of the total unit to function in combat operations.

On Jan. 5, 1985, the 202nd RED HORSE Squadron was federally activated. This year, we proudly celebrate the 20th anniversary of our unit and humbly express our appreciation to all 202nd Horsemen, past and present, who have contributed so much to our history and growing heritage. To the HORSE!



Photo courtesy of the 202nd Red Horse Squadron

Master Sgt. Joanna M. Brand (left) of the 125th Medical Group, and Tech. Sgt. Kevin E. Sievers (right) of the 202nd RHS and of the Florida CERFP team, decontaminate a simulated victim during an evaluation by the 1st US Army, WMD Division, August 4, 2004, at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

Communicating on the modern battlefield important in times of emerging technologies

By Col. David A. Barnhart
290JCSS Commander

The uninterrupted seamless flow of information has become the life blood of operating on the modern battlefield.

New technologies emerge at mind numbing speed, transforming many facets of our military. At the center of this seeming whirlwind of ever changing chaos is the need for trained and mission ready communications professionals. The 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron (JCSS) and its active duty partner the Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE) are at the epicenter of providing the required mission ready communications professionals to combatant commanders worldwide.

The 290th, since its federal recognition in 1984, has been located with its active duty JCSE partner at MacDill AFB, Fla. These joint communications units are directly controlled by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) to provide the tactical communications linkage between the combatant commanders and the National Command Authority (NCA). This high profile mission is only the tip of the iceberg compared with the other responsibilities and capabilities the 290th possesses. The unit must also support the combatant commanders need to communicate with all of his assigned forces from every service component and in most cases coalition partners. Every service component and coalition partner possesses unique equipment that must communicate with the combatant commanders joint headquarters.

Very few organizations have the experience and training the members of the 290th require to execute this demanding worldwide mission.

In many ways the 290th state mission is just as challenging as supporting the CJCS. As a key



Photos courtesy of the 290JCSS

component of the Florida Joint Force Headquarters' ability to respond to state contingencies, the 290th provides the backbone for the tactical communications network of the Florida National Guard. Elements of the 290th are fully integrated with Florida Army National Guard units when deployed to a state contingency providing communications services vital to recovery operations.

During the hurricane season of 2004 the 290th evacuated twice from MacDill, deployed communications teams for four major storms, activated more than 60 percent of the unit from August to September and expended in excess of 2000 man days for state active duty.

The 290th is ideally postured to exploit advancements in information technologies that contribute to promoting the joint environment. The results of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM reinforce the argument for continuing on the path for joint war-fighting and increased integration of dissimilar information systems.

Technologies that support convergence and the emergence of a global information grid are key to integrating information for the joint war fighter but will never reach their full potential without the experienced and trained communications

professionals found in units like the 290th and the JCSE.

The 290th is engaged in shaping the future of tactical communications but, far from being alone, it is in the joint environment where the unit will make its greatest contributions by putting the "J" in Joint-ness.



114th missions merge for space

By Lt. Col. Rembert N. Schofield
114th Commander

In 10 short years the 114th space mission has grown from five drill status Guardsmen (DSG) attached to the 114th Combat Communications Squadron into a federally recognized unit with eight Active Guard Reserve and seven DSG personnel. The 114th Range Flight continues to excel in space launch operations supporting the 45th Space Wing.

The 114RANF provides support to the 1st Range Operations Squadron (ROPS), 45th Operations Group, 45th Space Wing, Patrick AFB. The 1ROPS mission is to ensure mission success of space lift, ballistic and aeronautical launches. The Guard personnel maintain certification in all crew launch positions, including the Range Safety Officer position. Since 1997, the 114RANF has been the first Air Reserve Component to have personnel certified in any of the space launch crew positions, including filling an entire launch crew.

All personnel assigned to the unit maintain a "highly qualified" (the highest by Air Force Space Command standards) status on all their yearly and "no notice" evaluations.

The 114RANF personnel have supported more than 50 launches in the various crew positions. Since the 114RANF personnel have sustained such a high level of performance, the Active Duty component has assigned all launch crew training programs to the Guard to ensure all personnel, from the Airman Basic to the Wing Commander are trained according to Air Force Space Command instructions. A Guardsman holds the position of Deputy Chief of Stan/Eval, responsible for evaluating all launch crew personnel. The



Photo courtesy of 114CBCS

Guard fills the position of Chief, plans and programs in the Range Operations Squadron, responsible for launch and range planning and management. Effectively, the 114RANF is fully embedded within the 45OG and 1ROPS.

As "military space community" confidence in the 114RANF personnel grew, the Florida Air National Guard (FLANG) was presented the opportunity to contract, develop, test, and deploy a mobile space launch tracking and command destruct program. In 1999, as the 114CBCS mission was sun-setting, a mobile space launch tracking and command destruct program would allow a smooth transition, based on skill sets currently in place.

With the valuable assistance from the USP&FO-Florida, the Ballistic Missile Range Safety Technology (BMRST) contractual program began under the technical direction of the Air Force Research Lab, Kirkland AFB, NM.

To date, the 114CBCS has deployed to Kodiak Island (Alaska) twice, White Sands Missile Range (New Mexico), and shadowed various launch vehicles (Shuttle, Atlas IIA,

Delta II) from Cape Canaveral AFS. With the system performance increasing, the program is in a period of operational test and evaluation for transition to Air Force Space Command for call up to support federal launches.

With demonstrated excellence in the space launch mission and in the BMRST program, HQ AFSPC came to the FLANG with a proposal to contract and develop an emerging new mission, Defensive Counter Space (DCS). The FLANG was chosen based on location, but more importantly, past success with developing technology for the war-fighter. The DCS equipment consists of two passive (non-radiating) antennas and electronic equipment. The system can detect and locate interference on satellite communication links, a key requirement for the war-fighter in today's communications environment.

Soon the 114RANF and 114CBCS will fold into one unit, under Air Force Space Command, emerging as the 114th Range Operations Squadron (ROPS).

125FW and Det. 1 work smarter during stressful times

By Col. Scott K. Stacy
125FW Commander

When Brig. Gen. Balskus asked for an article to let the FLANG Team know what we have on our plate, I feared it would take an entire book. The combination of the Global War on Terror, daily tasks, inspections, transformation efforts, and support of several equally busy GSUs has created an extremely challenging environment at the wing. Additionally, the financial stress of the war is definitely impacting the resources distributed to the state. I open with this not to whine, but as a statement of fact that this is our new reality. The war will be a long, arduous, and very expensive struggle, but I know I speak for the entire wing when I say that we are up for the task. We are 100% committed to doing our part to win the war, continue our tradition of excellence, and support our fellow FLANG units to do the same. Why do I tell you this? Because I believe it is going to be critical to our missions to work together, work smarter, and find efficiencies and synergies in our operations. Communication within the FLANG on units operations and challenges is step one in this endeavor. So here goes!

The wing's primary peacetime mission is operating our alert detachment (Det. 1) at Homestead ARB. It is the busiest alert site in the country with missions including counter-drug, Noble Eagle, and Air Defense. F-15's out of Homestead have shadowed drug runners, intercepted hijacked airliners, escorted Cuban defectors, protected the president, and scrambled on Cuban MiG's. Support of this mission is always the wing's number one priority with F-15's ready to go 24/7, 365 days a year. A runway repair project at Homestead will soon force the Det to relocate to NAS Key West for six months, a major project requiring the wing to construct a permanent "warm" alert site with all the associated alert requirements.

Wing contribution to Homeland defense does not stop with the F-15. Our counter-drug C-26 is extremely active accounting for numerous arrests and drug seizures. Additionally, the surveillance capabilities have been utilized for overseas missions, border patrol, and protection of the president. Our C-130 has been equally busy supporting national airlift requirements. The mission support group, having recently returned troops from

combat in Iraq, has been heavily engaged in developing and training in various "military support to civil authorities" missions. Finally, the medical group has been an instrumental part of the states WMD preparedness with "first responders" capable of decontamination and medical care.

Simultaneous with our real world mission, the wing must stay prepared for our federal mission of deploying and gaining air superiority anywhere - anytime. The Air Force's ultimate test for unit readiness is the "Operation Readiness Inspection." This is the most robust and challenging inspection a fighter unit receives, and ours is scheduled for March 2006. The bulk of our training is focused with this inspection in mind, and we have scheduled exercises for July and October, and January 2006. Two major deployments key to wing readiness are also on the books for 2005. The "Weapons System Evaluation Program", a comprehensive live-fire exercise, is scheduled for May. The 125th Civil Engineer Squadron is scheduled for "Silver Flag", their most challenging combat training deployment, in September. Numerous smaller deployments, projects, and inspections are also planned for 2005.

Bottom line - like all of the FLANG, the wing is engaged daily in defending the country simultaneously with aggressively training to ensure we maintain our combat readiness. We proudly stand beside our fellow units in the FLANG in our mission to defend freedom and continue the pursuit of excellence.



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

125th Airmen perform extraordinary acts

By Maj. Kevin T. Cotton
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The United States Air Force and Army recently bestowed two of its most prestigious honors upon 125th Fighter Wing Airmen for courageous service and outstanding valor in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. One performed extraordinarily for what he had been trained to do. The other prepared himself and others to execute a new mission.

Brigadier Gen. Joseph G. Balskus, Florida Air National Guard Commander, presented the Bronze Star to Tech. Sgt. Robert P. Schoch, Jr. and the Air Force Commendation Medal with Valor to Tech. Sgt. Alvin W. Pollard, Jr. during a Commander's Call in January.

Colonel Scott K. Stacy, 125th Fighter Wing Commander, hailed the professionalism of the two noncommissioned officers. Stacy added the honors also are reflective of the unit's personnel readiness posture. A team of five Airmen – Master Sgt James Nickels, Tech. Sgt Jack Yates, Staff Sgt Sherry Most and Staff Sgt Jeffery Shields – and Schoch deployed to Iraq to provide combat convoy support. The

personnel readiness posture. A team of five Airmen – Master Sgt James Nickels, Tech. Sgt Jack Yates, Staff Sgt Sherry Most and Staff Sgt Jeffery Shields – and Schoch deployed to Iraq to provide combat convoy support.

"It is truly impressive the way our Florida Air National Guard

members not only adapted to the extreme conditions of ground combat, but excelled and quickly advanced to leadership within the Army system," said Stacy. "The pride, dedication, and warrior spirit of these Airmen brings honor to the 125th Fighter Wing and the FLANG."

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The sound of explosions reverberated across the base, rattling the gangly pines of the nearby woods and breaking the silence of the clear winter morning.

Fortunately, this time, the explosions were a part of a controlled training by the 125th Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.

While the sounds are quite familiar during a training exercise, it's these sounds that Pollard works hardest not to hear.

Pollard distinguished himself during a four-month deployment to Iraq in 2003. Pollard served



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill

Tech. Sgt. Alvin W. Pollard, Jr. receives the Air Force Commendation Medal with Valor at a Commander's call held at the 125th in January 2005. Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus, FLANG commander, presented the award.

as an EOD team leader with the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron. While under constant threats of ambush, it was his ability to prevent explosives from killing coalition troops and Iraqi civilians while under constant threat of ambush that earned Pollard the recognition.

Pollard, whose voice rises with enthusiasm when discussing ordnance disposal, said his actions in the war zone were nothing more than what he has trained and prepared to do during his 20 years in the Air National Guard.

"I'm no different from the First Sergeant," he said. "I'm no different than the equipment operators. We all have a job to do. Usually when I go into a job I know what I'm facing."

During the Iraq deployment, Pollard's expertise and those of his team members were constantly tested as the improvised explosive devices (IED) grew in frequency and force.

His team was credited with encountering and defeating 11 IEDs, which helped clear the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill

Tech. Sgt. Robert P. Schoch Jr. salutes Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus, FLANG commander after receiving his Bronze Star during a January 2005 ceremony, for heroic service deployment to Iraq in while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 2003. Pollard served

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Six Airmen named 'best of the best' in Florida Air National Guard

By Senior Amn. Thomas Kielbasa
FLNG HQ Public Affairs

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – Six Airmen chosen by their leadership as the “best of the best” in their units, were honored as the Florida Air National Guard’s 2005 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, during an awards presentation, at the Casa Monica Hotel in February.

Florida Air National Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus and State Command Chief Master Sgt. Susan E. Shonka presented the honors before a crowd of more than 150 family, friends, and fellow Guardsmen.

“We brought you here to recognize you as being the best of the best,” Balskus said to the six Outstanding Airmen and 12 other award nominees during the presentation.

The Florida Air National Guard winners will go on to compete at the National Guard level, and those winners will then compete against active duty Airmen at the Air Force level.

Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Daniel Flores, of Vero Beach, Fla., is a Satellite Communications Craftsman assigned to the 114th Combat Communications Squadron at Patrick Air Force Base.

He completed his craftsman career development course requirements in four months – 10 months faster than the nationwide completion average for the course

Also, while on state active duty supporting Hurricane Frances relief efforts in 2004, Flores suggested a new workflow to distribute relief supplies.

This cut disaster victims’ wait time at distribution sites by hours.

And, according to leadership, his suggestions directly led to serving 30,000 disaster victims at a single location within a one-week period.

Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year

Staff Sgt. Allen Henne, of Panama City, Fla., is a Maintenance Control Technician assigned to SEADS. Henne directly supported the G-8 World Leaders’ Summit last year, and used his expertise to improve satellite capabilities which assured the protection of President Bush and other world leaders.

According to his leaders, Henne’s diligence

“tremendously increased” the air sovereignty readiness posture in Southeast region air defense: he directly tracked and coordinated maintenance of 2,200 equipment malfunctions, coordinated more than 16,000 hours of preventative maintenance inspections, and increased classified briefing capabilities by 100 percent.



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

2005 Outstanding Airmen of the Year: Senior Airmen Daniel Flores (left), Staff Sgt. Allen Henne, Master Sgt. Lynn Boop, Master Sgt. Daniel Rebstock, Master Sgt. Michael Haynes, and Tech. Sgt. David Lowe.

Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year

Master Sgt. Lynn Boop, a resident of Sunny Hill, Fla., is also with SEADS where he serves as the Superintendent of the Standardization/Evaluation branch. Boop was selected last year as the Florida Air National Guard’s Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year.

Boop completed the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy correspondence in half the allotted time with a 95 percent academic average, and is currently seeking a bachelor’s degree in Aviation Science from the American Military University.

During the year he participated in high profile missions including the G-8 World Leaders’ Summit and combat air patrols supporting travel of the president and 22 heads of state.

First Sergeant of the Year

Master Sgt. Daniel Rebstock, of Panama City, Fla., is a first sergeant assigned to SEADS, and according to his leadership, he “lives and

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way for ground forces traveling the deadly roads in and around Baghdad. In addition, he was also accredited with being involved in the capture of two dozen Soviet surface-to-air man portable missiles.

The team cleared nearly 44,000 pounds of ordnance in and around the Baghdad International Airport, some of which remained from the Iran-Iraq war, said Pollard, whose other work with the Army included a deployment in 1998 to clear bombing ranges near the Panama Canal Zone.

Protecting Assets

For dozens of missions and thousands of miles, Squad A, 2nd Platoon of the 2632nd Air Expeditionary Force Transportation Company escorted coalition assets through the treacherous roads of Iraq for months in 2004. These convoys provided crucial supplies to the soldiers and Marines on the ground. Schoch, a vehicle maintenance operator at the 125th, who served as Squad Leader for Squad A, said the mission to protect convoys in a combat zone put his fellow Airmen in unfamiliar territory. According to Schoch's award

narrative, the "joint mission apportioned Airmen against Army unit equipment and broke service barriers as the first USAF unit to serve under US Army command since World War II."

"[The mission] was very difficult to say the least on individuals who were there from other Guard units and active duty who were vehicle operators and had no combat, no tactical skills, no combat wherewithal," explained Schoch, who received combat convoy training during a four-year stint in the Florida Army National Guard.

Seeing that this mission would require additional training and a change of mindset, Schoch set out to help prepare approximately 225 Airmen for the rare mission. Schoch, a former SWAT team member for the Polk County Sheriff's Office, devised a training regiment to teach Airmen combat convoy techniques that would save lives and protect assets.

He instructed the Airmen in battle drills, hand and arm signals, fields of fire and other

combat-related skills. During the six-month deployment the platoon never missed a mission nor did it suffer significant injury to personnel or loss of equipment and supplies. The 2632nd Air Expeditionary Force / Truck Company (AEF/TC) earned such an impressive reputation that its services were frequently requested to escort other truck companies within the battalion. June 5, 2004, east of the town of Fallujah, Schoch's observation of a suspicious vehicle weaving in and out of the convoy and decisive action to force the car away from the line of vehicles thwarted possible loss of personnel and destruction of supplies and equipment. After being forced from the convoy, the vehicle's passengers jumped out and the vehicle exploded.

"This isn't what we were trained to do," said Master Sgt James Nickles, 125th Vehicle Operations Supervisor and Schoch's immediate supervisor. "The reason we did as well as we did can be contributed to [Schoch]."

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breathes people first, mission always!" Rebstock revamped the unit quarterly boards, and increased senior non-commissioned officer board member and nominee participation by more than 76 percent. He has completed all requirements for his second Community College of the Air Force associate's degree in Human Resource Management, and was elected President of the Florida First Sergeants Council. Rebstock's also personally delivered Thanksgiving food baskets and more than 60 Christmas presents to 20 needy families in the unit.

Honor Guard Member of the Year Master Sgt. Michael Haynes, of Sunny Hills, Fla., is a non-commissioned officer in charge of the Weapons Standardization/Evaluation branch at SEADS. As part of the honor guard he executed ceremonial honors in 42 of 58 events conducted throughout the base, local community, and Florida; during the year he even performed in 15 events over a six-week period. He also dedicated 126 hours to training – the most hours of any of the honor

guard members. Haynes was part of the first SEADS deployment in support of Florida hurricane relief, where he helped distribute 10 tons of food, water, and ice to 2,000 families in need throughout central Florida.

Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year Tech. Sgt. David Lowe, of Jacksonville, Fla., is a Tactical Aircraft Maintenance Craftsman with the 125th Maintenance Operations Flight in Jacksonville, Fla. His leadership describes him as the "heart and soul of the Wing Honor and Color Guard; consummate leader, outstanding manager and administrator." During the year Lowe supported 23 events, 10 of which were military funerals, and led the color guard through several high-visibility events including NFL games in Jacksonville. He is also a Deputy Commander of Cadets for the Civil Air Patrol, and also participated in humanitarian relief efforts for the four Florida hurricanes in 2004.

Each of these Airmen was awarded the Florida Distinguished Service Medal for his accomplishments.

Chief's Words

By Chief Master Sgt. Susan E. Shonka
HQ FLANG Command Chief

The State Headquarters Staff recently had the distinct honor of hosting the FLANG Outstanding Airmen of the Year to a luncheon and awards ceremony.

We had 20 nominees from the 125FW, SEADS, 202RHS, 114ROPS and the 290JCSS. As State CCM, I am so proud to see each one of these members recognized by their units for all of their efforts and they truly deserve the recognition.

I am confident our members selected for national level consideration will give the other state nominees some stiff competition.

All Non-Commissioned Officers have important obligations and responsibilities to their unit, subordinates, and themselves.

I ask each of you to take a few minutes and evaluate your level of participation in several key areas:

Team Florida

The FLANG is unique within the ANG. No other state has so many distinct and diverse units and missions supported by one wing. This situation creates some challenges that can be solved only through working together to achieve solutions that benefit the entire membership.

Your state leadership is committed to the concept of "One State - One Team" and continues to work hard to ensure equitable consideration is given to every person of every unit on every topic. As an NCO, look for opportunities to improve processes and procedures that can benefit your subordinates...while looking at the bigger picture that includes an understanding of how each unit blends in that process.

Professional Military Education (PME)

During my opportunities to speak with our Airmen I often come away with the impression many of them see PME as a necessity for promotion, and little else. PME does not mean "promote me" it means "prepare me."

As an NCO, it is your responsibility to prepare your subordinates, and yourself, to progress in our organization.

It is a vital part of your job to prepare your replacement and enable them to assume increased responsibility.

Promotion is the result of being prepared, as exemplified by the recent promotion of CMSgt. Calvin Jones, 125CES. While PME can be successfully accomplished via correspondence or in-residence, the latter is the most beneficial to both the member and the organization.

The in-residence setting offers a tremendous opportunity to learn from the best and brightest in the ANG. The instructors are world-class professionals and the other students will become friends and allies for the rest of your career. No matter where you start this journey, ALS, NCO Academy, or Senior NCO Academy, PME will make you a better NCO prepared for all challenges and opportunities that arise... and in-residence is the best method.

Enlisted Performance Feedback

The Enlisted Field Advisory Council (EFAC) has received many concerns about the lack of performance feedback for NCOs. As a result, there now exists a formal enlisted feedback program to provide feedback to all NCOs while in military status. If you have not been given any form of feedback, contact your first sergeant who is responsible for this program.

Fitness Program

Though called a program, don't look at it as one. Look at it as a way of life. It is important for us to be physically fit for deployment, but also for our own personal sake.

Organizational Memberships

NCOs should belong to organizations such as the Junior NCO and Top Three Enlisted Councils. You should also belong to professional organizations such as EANGUS (an organization that works for the National Guard), AFSA (an organization that works for Active Duty, Guard and Reserve) and AFA (an organization that works for the Air Force). Representatives from these organizations are able to work the legislative channels for quality of life issues and benefits. The only way these organizations can succeed is to have large membership roles giving strength to their voice on Capitol Hill. We have a great Air National Guard organization in Florida and I enjoy working with each and every one of you!



Photo by SSgt Jeffrey J. Trumble

Senior Master Sgt. Calvin Jones, 125th Civil Engineer Squadron, is promoted to the rank of Chief Master Sgt. in a formal ceremony held at the 125FW in January 2005. Chief Master Sgt. Susan E. Shonka, State Command Chief (right) and Jones' son, Calvin M. Jones, (left), tacked on the new chevrons.

FLANG Operations steadily increasing

*By Col. Alan K. Rutherford
HQ FLANG Director of Operations*

First let me salute everyone for a great job during “Hurricanes 2004” as well as the ongoing efforts to support the Global War on Terrorism. The mission of the FLANG is to be ready to provide Air & Space Power to a combatant commander whether at home or abroad. While in the past we may have operated as separate units, Mother Nature, transformation and the enemy have forced us to begin operating as a truly integrated air component while supporting joint operations. Let me walk you through some of the areas we are currently focused on.

We have worked hard to capture the lessons learned from the hurricanes of 2004 and incorporate them into a FLANG Military Support to Civilian Authorities (MSCA) Concept of Operations Plan (CONPLAN). Under Major Ed Clarke's guidance, this CONPLAN is currently going through the FLNG headquarters staffing process. When it goes final, the next step will be to develop a training program to ensure that FLANG Airmen are continually prepared for this vital mission.

The cornerstone of our MSCA operations is the “Air Expeditionary Group” (AEG). First developed to project USAF AEF airpower overseas, the AEG is the organization through which the FLANG provides airpower to a FLNG Joint Task Force. Melding different FLANG GSU capabilities into one team, the AEG will be the construct we use

in all future scenarios should the FLANG be called on to play in a “home game” within our borders.

Florida was one of 12 states chosen for the ground breaking “CERFP” homeland defense mission. An acronym of acronyms, CERFP stands for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package. The role of the CERFP is to deploy a team of personnel to the site of a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) attack and, working with state/federal agencies, support local first responders with casualty care.

Although the FLNG CERFP is currently staffed by 76 Air Guard personnel, we anticipate the mission will soon expand to about 180 troops. This growth will drive us to include Florida Army Guard troops making the CERFP a truly joint team.

Many kudos to the 202RHS and 125MDG for stepping up and accepting this new and important mission.

Finally, we are working to develop processes that facilitate operating smoothly as an integrated air component. One example is an initiative to improve strategic planning. We have built a “GSU Ops Status Report” that allows HQ to have a global view of FLANG opstempo, to de-conflict and prioritize unit events and optimize windows of opportunity to provide mutual support.

Working together as one team will pay off big dividends in efficiencies and leveraging FLANG Air & Space Power!

MyPay offers easy access to financial documents, information

*By Chief Master Sgt. Ralph T. Kirkland
HQ FLANG Chief Financial Advisor*

The operations tempo of all FLANG units continues at a very high pace as we support the Global War on Terrorism and Homeland Defense missions.

This unprecedented level of activity naturally places additional stress on each of you and the sections of the 125th Fighter Wing that provide services to you.

You can help yourself and the Financial Management Office by enrolling in and using the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) MyPay application. This system can be reached from any computer with Internet access. Simply point your browser to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. You will need your social security number and a personal identification number (PIN). If you do not have one, you can request it from the main page of the site. This will soon be the only way to access your Leave and Earning Statements (LES). You may also have a PIN assigned to your spouse or significant other so they may have inquiry only access.

Many routine account maintenance actions can be completed online. This includes changes to tax withholding exemptions, updating your Electronic Fund Transfer information, updating Thrift Savings Plan options, and many more.

I encourage you to visit and use MyPay on a regular basis and put yourself in control of many of the details of your pay account.

TEAM concept leads the future

*By Col. Jeanette B. Booth
HQ FLANG Director of Support*

The transformation of State Headquarters Florida Air National Guard has been tremendous over the past few years. As you walk in the front door of our Headquarters, you see the Air Guard vision statement before you, "An effective TEAM of citizen soldiers focused on excellence, leading the Florida Air National Guard into the future."

It looks very impressive, but when you have outstanding Airmen positioned in all of the key areas the challenge is not really apparent. Now take a look at the beautiful image of Florida on the cover of this edition of The Eagle's Eye and notice the eleven different patches scattered around the state. Realize that associated with each one of these patches is a unique unit, with a mission that is very important to the defense of our nation.

Our overall objective here at State Headquarters is to support all of our units in whatever capacity we can. Because no other state looks like Florida, with one wing supporting so many Geographically Separated Units, it is a challenge to get those who provide the resources to us to understand how hard it is to have ten units looking to one Medical Group or one Finance Office or one MPF for support.

We understand this becomes very frustrating at times for our Airmen and former Airmen. One of our objectives as a Headquarters is to develop policies and procedures that improve and streamline our processes wherever we can, hopefully helping both our Airmen and our over tasked support elements at the wing.

As the Director of Support, I get ample opportunities to work many diverse issues with each unit every day.

The issues are as diverse as our units, varying from promotions, line of duty determinations, awards and decorations, manpower authorizations or shortages or changes, waivers, national appointments and nominations, controlled grades, and employment authorizations, just to name a few (trust me, the list could go on for at least of couple of pages).

My staff and I are your conduit to the Human Resources Office and the National Guard Bureau to work these and other issues. We are open to any suggestions you may have to help Team Florida operate more effectively and efficiently. By standardizing our processes and unifying our efforts within the diverse organizations that comprise our state, we will be an effective TEAM.

Diversity, mentoring programs help ANG thrive

*By Chief Master Sgt. Terry D. Libbert
HQ FLANG Human Resources Advisor (HRA)*

As the State Human Resources Advisor (HRA), my role is to advise the command leadership on issues related to the advancement of the organization's culture. The goal - to promote opportunities for all ANG members that maximize individual potential for success without regard to cultural differences.

Diversity Education

The ANG is not recruiting from the traditional sources as in the past. The result is an ever-changing diversity in the ranks. In order to remain a premier organization, the ANG must attract and retain the very best and brightest men and women. Profound demographic shifts in our nation's population has increased the need for diversity education in many large organizations including the Guard. Diversity education strives to teach that no matter what our differences, our strength evolves from what every ANG member has to offer. Now, and in the future, diversity in the ANG will be less about race and gender and more about knowledge and information sharing.

Mission Driven Mentoring

Mentoring is a relationship in which a person with greater experience or wisdom guides another to a higher level of personal and professional excellence. The Guard Bureau has dedicated significant resources to the Mission Driven Mentoring program. The primary goal of the MDM initiative is to teach and pass on the 16 enduring leadership competencies as described in AFDD 1-1. Every member of the ANG is called upon to be a leader, regardless of rank or time in service. Other important aspects of the MDM initiative include building relationships and creating higher performance teams. The formal mentoring program will have long lasting positive affects on the members of the ANG.

In these days of shrinking budgets and fewer workers, it is essential that all of our activities are measurable and tied directly to mission readiness and accomplishment. As your State HRA, I am committed to helping all members of the Florida Air National Guard reach their greatest potential!

PIMR reveals unit readiness

By Dr. (Col.) J. Kirk Martin
HQ FLANG State Air Surgeon

The health and fitness of the Air National Guard plays a central role in our ability to rapidly deploy and operate in austere combat conditions. The periodic physical exams performed every five years did not fulfill the mission of continuous medical readiness.

The old system also fragmented required medical items so that you might be due a physical one month, and have to return to the medical group two months later for immunizations, and again a few months later for lab work.

The Air Force wide Physical Health Assessment (PHA) and the Reserve Component Physical Health Assessment (RCPHA) was introduced to comprehensively address and correct these deficiencies, as well as to refocus the encounters on staying medically ready for deployment.

With the PHA/RCPHA fully implemented, all Total Air Force members now have annual contact and medical review at an Air Force Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) or at an ANG or AFRC medical unit. At the annual visit during your birth month, preventive medical screening is performed according to your age. The member receives immunizations which are due, has a dental exam, has required lab tests, completes a history update, and has the required examination. A profile is generated that identifies whether or not the

individual is worldwide qualified. The individual items (Immunizations, Lab, Dental, Medical Equipment, Health Records Review, and Profile) are loaded into a database that is not only tracked locally, but can be monitored at Guard Bureau, or Air Staff. The Preventive Individual Medical Readiness (PIMR) should reveal at a glance which units are medically ready to deploy.

The most important part of PIMR is the **individual**. Each member of the ANG must view the annual contact as **their** responsibility, and each individual should know that they must be seen at the medical group during their birth month. Required forms are sent to the 1st Sgt's the month prior to your birth month.

A current RCPHA is required for processing through mobility lines, attending schools, promotions, and transfers.

As long as a member is up-to-date with their RCPHA, the medical portion of each of these actions is quick and painless. Compare that to a mobility processing line where half of the members are overdue some PIMR item and then must have that deficiency corrected before they can continue processing.

PIMR and the RCPHA are everyone's responsibility, and part of personal accountability. Celebrate your birthday, and be certain your annual visit to the medical group is done before the end of the month.

FLANG recruiting, retention tops in ANG

By Chief Master Sgt. Iben H. Phillips
HQ FLANG Recruiting & Retention
Superintendent

In the beginning, from 1947 to approximately 1977, the Air National Guard did not have recruiters. Back then, the ANG recruited members for enlistment or appointment by soliciting individuals that members had encountered or that relatives had recommended.

The future enlistee or appointee then met with a personnel troop who would process him/her into the unit. I was one of those accessions in 1972.

The National Guard Bureau finally created a recruiting program in the late 70's. These "new" recruiters were assigned

to NGB under Title 10, and the recruiters were assigned to each wing for duty. In early 1980 these Title 10 recruiters became Title 32 (state controlled active duty), and still are today.

The Florida recruiting program has grown from two recruiters to our current status of seven recruiters, two retainers and one superintendent. We are fortunate to have quality recruiters and retainers who have a heart for the mission. They continue to keep Florida manned as one of the top ten states in the nation.

Manning is critical to mission readiness, thus the emphasis from the national level on strength numbers. Our

strength figures are 103% enlisted and 86.7% officer, or 100.8% overall. Our goal is to stay above 100%. As important as recruiting is to maintaining our strength, retention plays a major role in meeting and even surpassing our strength goals. We have lost 41 Airmen this fiscal year: 58.5% of these losses were retirements. If we subtract this figure from the total losses, we stand as one of the top retention programs in the nation with less than a 5% loss ratio. This is a credit to all of our members, past and present, who continue to demonstrate their concern for our troops.

Thank you for a job well done!

ORI's, ORE's test families too

By Ms. Beth Eifert

FLANG Family Readiness Coordinator

TDY, MPF, UCI...Don't you just love military acronyms and abbreviations?

Well, here are a couple more for you: ORE and ORI.

You may have heard your Guard member refer to them, although typically accompanied by certain expletives, as in, "honey, I'm gonna miss dinner tonight. We're still in the middle of this %\$#@* ORE!"

ORE stands for "Operational Readiness Exercise" and ORI stands for "Operational Readiness Inspection." Every unit must undergo this, or a similar, excruciating process as a way for U.S. Air Force higher headquarters to validate the unit's ability to conduct its combat mission. Several OREs will take place as practice in the year leading up

to the MOE (Mother of all Exercises) – the ORI. During this time, you'll probably notice your Guard member working longer hours and acting a bit like, how shall I say it, his or her shorts are in a wad.

I can only plead on their behalf for your patience and understanding.

Short of an actual mobilization, this is their closest opportunity to put all of their training into practice. The pressure is on and the stakes are high.

They'll be graded - or degraded as the case may be - on their performance. This could impact a unit's funding, and/or its very existence.

Both the ORE and the ORI have two phases: the first phase tests the unit's ability to get their folks out of proverbial Dodge. In other words, it tests

how well they can process their forces and equipment for deployment.

Phase two tests a unit's ATSO or Ability to Survive and Operate in a combat environment (I'm not kidding!).

Both phases typically test a spouse's patience and often trigger his/her Negative Attitude Gauge (NAG) reflex which inevitably leads to a MODD, or Make your Own Dinner Dear, response.

It is now that I advise restraint on your part. Acknowledge your Guard member's hard work and praise him/her for their dedication because at this point, if you're lucky, your Guard member may very well offer you a Severe and Profound Apology (SPA) treatment.

Don't you just love military acronyms now?

Florida Air National Guard Retiree Association

By Ernie Webster

President, FLANGRA

Dear Fellow Retirees and friends,

I'm sure all of you know about the passing of B.B. Parker, our heart goes out to his family. BB left a great legacy for Guardsmen and he will truly be missed especially at our dinners, his smiling face and presence was enjoyed by all.

It's time to get together again for some good food and fellowship.

Our spring dinner will be held at the NAS JAX "O" Club April 29 (Friday night).

The menu will feature the usual Beef & Reef. Social hour starts at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m. Major Gen. Doug Burnett will be our guest speaker.

As the Adjutant General of Florida, he has a tremendously busy schedule so we are fortunate to have him bring us up to date on the state of the Guard.

I hope you will make every effort to attend. As usual we will be joined by The Falcon Chapter of AFA.

At the last meeting we collected money for a Minuteman Memorial Bell. I am pleased to report the bell and case were purchased by Senior Master Sgt. Willie Hodges of the 125th Fire Department at a cost of approximately \$1000.

The bell was used for the first time March 6 in a ceremony held at the 125th to memorialize an Air Force firefighter who recently lost his life in Iraq. I will have an additional update on the bell at the meeting.

The cost of the dinner is \$20.00 per person.

Please make your check payable to FLANGRA and mail to Jack Stuart, 10253 E. Briarcliff Road, Jacksonville, Fla. 32218.

Mark your calendar and plan to have a nice evening out. Hope to see you there!



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill

Legal matters: A little effort goes a long way!

By Lt. Col. Gary S. Stere
HQ FLANG State JAG

It is a great honor to be selected as the FLANG State Judge Advocate. With my departure from the 125FW, Major Dexter Davis has assumed the position of Staff Judge Advocate. At SEADS, Lt. Col. Mike Guillory leads a full-time legal team of dedicated professionals. Our mission is to serve the commanders and Airmen of the Florida Air National Guard and we are building a strong team to accomplish this.

The FLANG legal team serves the organization through counsel and representation to commanders, noncommissioned officers and other leaders.

We also provide services to members in various military adverse actions through our legal assistance program. We prepare wills and powers of attorney, assist with mobilization-related issues arising with employers and creditors, and provide other guidance to help our members.

Here are a few practical items to consider:

Record of Emergency Data - For both your National Guard unit and civilian employer (if applicable), be sure they know how to contact your next-of-kin.

Document Organization - Prepare an inventory of your personal and real property and assemble the critical documents pertaining to each item. Examples include titles and mortgages/liens to property, financial accounts,

and insurance policies; obligations such as credit card accounts, notes, leases, and purchase contracts; and family records such as birth, marriage, divorce, and adoption papers. This inventory should be kept in a safe, accessible place. Someone you trust should have access to them. Review the beneficiaries on your life insurance, retirement plans, and other such assets.

Consider placing your bank accounts in joint names with your spouse or other person you wish to have access to those funds. If you have some continuing obligation that must be paid periodically, consider a special account for that purpose and arrange for the bank to make automatic payments. Consider a joint account with the person who will have the responsibility for making the payments. Also, make sure you have important military records organized, such as discharge certificates and enlistment papers.

Wills & Powers of Attorney - A will appoints and directs a personal representative on how to distribute your property upon your death. Wills also can express your wishes regarding who should care for your minor children and your burial preferences. Powers of attorney designate another individual to act on your behalf while you are alive, including while you are deployed. They are especially useful to deployed military personnel who need someone to take care of matters back home.

Remember, just a little effort to plan and organize can help your family immensely!

Computer Security: Big Brother is watching you!

By Lt. Col. Julia A Kyrakis
125MSG Deputy Commander

This is a Department of Defense computer system. This computer system, including all related equipment, networks and network devices (specifically including Internet access), are provided only for authorized U. S. Government use. DoD computer systems may be monitored for all lawful purposes, including to ensure that their use is authorized, for management of the system, to ...

Does this warning look familiar? It should. Every time you log onto your FLANG computer or laptop away from the FLANG, this screen pops up and you acknowledge that you accept these terms and conditions for use. This message is clear: you are being monitored and you will be corrected if you use the computer inappropriately.

Does it surprise you that two FLANG members received administrative punishment recently for misuse of their government computer? It really shouldn't. After all, you are being monitored and you will be challenged for unauthorized use of your government computer.

One member received an Article 15 for visiting numerous pornographic sites over several months. The other member received a letter of reprimand even though he was adamant that he did nothing wrong. However, he did leave his password openly displayed and several civilian and military members had access to it. If you do not protect your password, you are responsible for whatever happens if someone accesses your account.

Be advised, the next time you log onto your government computer, give some serious thought to what you're acknowledging when you use it and consent to monitoring. Big Brother is watching!

In the Spotlight

Technical Sgt. Sherri L. Nelson



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Technical Sgt. Sherri Nelson reviews Awards and Decorations applications for several of the FLANG's units.

A personnel specialist for State Headquarters, Nelson joined the Guard in 1997 after serving in the Reserves for four years at Patrick AFB. Prior to becoming a reservist she served on Active Duty and was stationed at Sembach AB, Germany and at Robbins AFB, Ga. as a law enforcement specialist.

She is currently on an fAGR tour working with officer programs for the State.

"I work with a great team at State Headquarters processing higher level Awards and Decorations, Senior Enlisted Promotions, Special Trophies and Awards, Officer Actions, and Selective Retention," said Nelson.

Eager to learn new things and serve members of the FLANG on a full-time basis, the dedicated technical sergeant, who lives with her husband and two children in Penny Farms, Fla., conducted Awards and Decorations training for several units throughout the FLANG. In fact, she regards this experience as her most memorable thus far.

"It was great meeting the people that we support and laying the foundation for a better program," noted Nelson.

Nelson, who holds degrees from both the Community College of the Air Force and St. John's Community College and has more than 18 years combined military service, has never regretted her decision to join the FLANG family.

"It's absolutely the best kept secret in the military!" said Nelson.

Reps from the Office of the Secretary of Defense and NGB visit STARBASE

By Col. (Ret.) Frank Kozdras

STARBASE Florida Director

STARBASE Florida's program for math, science, and technology education was assessed in March by the program director from National Guard Bureau (NGB), and an Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) field representative.

Both agencies provide policy and guidance for over 40 STARBASE sites across the nation.

The STARBASE Florida leadership presented a briefing showcasing our program and staff. The presentation clearly

validated a program whose goals and objectives are exceeded daily.

STARBASE Florida is a DOD program, started in Florida in 1994, and has operated in cooperation with the Duval County School Board as an alternative educational program for at-risk youth, targeting Title "1" and failing schools in the greater Jacksonville area.

STARBASE Florida will serve nine local schools and over 800 students this school year; 84% are special needs (ESE) students.

STARBASE Florida consistently records post test

scores 40% above pretest scores in an FCAT integrated curriculum.

There are 57 eligible schools in Duval County that could qualify for STARBASE instruction and our vision is to touch as many as we can.

With an additional classroom we can double our enrollment and with a new facility, we can introduce an advanced curriculum. Please visit one of our classes and observe the fun you can have learning math, science, and technology.



Chaplain's Corner

By Lt. Col. Steven E. Thompson
125FW Chaplain

I recently conducted the funeral service for an 18 year-old young man who died as a result of massive injuries sustained when he lost control of his car and crashed into a tree. His scenario has been played out too many times: a few drinks at a party, a fast car, a little loss of control, a bit of over correction, an avoidable accident and a lot of broken hearts. Oh, how I wish that every member of our unit could be with me when I hold the hands and look into the eyes of loved ones whose lives will never be the same because someone they loved needlessly died in a drinking and driving accident! I believe that most folks would pause and make better decisions before getting behind the wheel. However, my article is not about the tragic consequences of alcohol related calamities.

One of my church members shared with me that he had asked the funeral director assisting with the service, "How do you maintain your joy when you do this everyday?" I responded to him that the real issue is how one continues to respect the hurt and sorrow of those grieving when confronted with the emotions of a daily funeral. The challenge is avoiding becoming callous, ignoring their pain and maybe even joking around while others suffer through the services. How do you keep such a significant day for the family and friends of the deceased from being just another day at the office for you? That

brings me to the main point that God has laid on my heart to share with you.

News reports recently indicated that we passed the 1,500 mark of military deaths in our Global War on Terror. The first of those deaths were nationally received with great dismay by all of us. Those first deaths impacted the deceased local communities with appropriate sadness. However, as time goes on and as the number of those who die to ensure our freedoms continues to rise; it is very easy for all of us to become emotionally complacent of the sacrifices of others.

Jesus once said, "Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:3) Be sure to pause for a moment every time you hear of a Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Coast Guardsman or Airman injured or killed in action.

Let us never cut short our appreciation for each other and especially those who give their lives on our behalf.

Security Issues

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Cline
125FW Antiterrorism Officer

While most of us work in an environment where security is everyone's job and we are told day in and day out to stay alert, we tend not to take [that] work home with us. Summer is coming and most of us will be vacationing and spending time with family and friends. During these times, we tend to get more complacent. There are measures you can take to keep

you and your family safe. Check for travel advisories or warnings at <http://travel.state.gov> before you start your trip. Criminals and terrorists focus on soft targets, so try not to stand out as much as possible. Keeping a low profile in public places should be your first priority. Use traveler's checks and one or two credit cards rather than cash. Never share your travel plans with strangers. Even if you are lost, walk with confidence as if you are in control. **Don't ignore your instincts!** If you have a feeling that something is not right, it most likely isn't. Report any suspicious activities to your local law enforcement authorities immediately.

Safety



By Tech. Sgt. Paula M. Milton
125FW Safety Office

According to officials at the Air Force Safety Center, the summer months are a period of increased non duty-related injuries due to increased activity and risk taking. The safety campaign titled, "101 Critical Days of Summer" has been an Air Force wide program that has run annually since the early 1980's.

Traditional efforts include; messages by senior leadership, mass briefings by commanders, weekly supervisory briefings, pre- trip/ travel/ departure briefings, etc. The period between Memorial Day and Labor Day was chosen for the campaign because each holiday involved a three-day weekend.

This summer, let's focus on safety by using common sense in all of our recreational activities.

Promotions

To Lieutenant Colonel

Michael E. Guillory, SEADS
Ronald M. Hudspeth, SEADS
Valerie H. Mueck, HQ FLANG

To Major

Michael A. Valle, SEADS

To Captain

Hugh D. McKillop, 290JCSS

To Chief Master Sgt.

Richard Mercado, 290JCSS
Richard D. Phillips, 125MXG
John V. Poreider, SEADS
Marilyn M. Robinson, 125MDG

To Senior Master Sgt.

Yancy B. Bowen, 125LRS
Joseph E. Brunson, Jr., 125OSF
Nora W. Byas, 125FW
Mirtza Classobotker, 290JCSS
John C. Cohee, 125MXG
Vincent J. Corcoran, SEADS
Therese M. Gibson, WRTC
Ewell B. Griswold, SEADS
Shawn A. Josi, 290JCSS
Theodore G. Karst, 125MXG
Robert D. Lee, 114CBCS
Doris L. Taylor, 125LRS

To Master Sgt.

Lucian H. Bailey, 125MXG
Cory L. Brown, WRTC
Paul R. Bryant, 125CF
Timothy J. Carroll, 202RHS
Jerry E. Deese, 125FW
Thomas P. Fazio, 202RHS
Eugene D. Grady, 290JCSS
Todd R. Jennings, 125CES
Ronald J. Perry, SEADS
Victor S. Stacy, 159FS
Jerry J. Tice, 125MXG
Cassandra Williams, 290JCSS

To Technical Sgt.

Marilyn A. Diller, 125FW
Marc J. Myers, 125MXG
Liesl M. Powers, 125FW
Fernando Rico, Jr., 125AMS
Sean M. Smith, 125MXG

To Staff Sgt.

Carroll J. Bonner, 125MXG
Ryan K. Elthe, 125MXG
William S. Green, 125MXG
Emily C. Woodman, 125OSF

To Senior Airman

Logan R. Musil, 125CES
Tyra L. Williams, 125SVF

To Airman First Class

Jonathan K. Myers, 125LRS

Welcomes

Capt Hugh D. McKillop, 290JCSS
MSgt Brian A. Argutto, 125OSF
TSgt Wendy D. Alvarado, SEADS
TSgt Walter B. Lacorte, 125AGS
TSgt Jeffrey W. Munn, SEADS
TSgt Robert D. Patterson, 202RHS
TSgt Eric J. Stringer, 125MDG
SSgt Shawn J. Alexander, SEADS
SSgt Larry J. Calmbacher, 202RHS
SSgt James P. Hatch, 125MXG
SSgt John W. Hill, 125MXG
SSgt Brandy J. Hiner, 125MDG
SSgt William R. Pfeiffer, 125LRS
SSgt Nicholas B. Valenti, WRTC
SSgt Kenneth C. Walther, 290JCSS
SSgt Keith G. Wilkinson, 125CES
SrA Samuel A. Almengor, 114CBCS
SrA Abea S. Balala, 125LRS
SrA Robert A. Donet, 202RHS
SrA Lori Lynn Famiglietti, 159WF
SrA Donald J. Handfield, Jr., 125SFS
SrA Rebecca M. Huggins, 125MSF
SrA James G. Johnson, 125MXG
SrA Joshua S. Leis, 125MXG
SrA Cleverson O. Schmidt, 114CBCS
A1C Colt G. Austin, 159FS
A1C Elizabeth A. Bailey, 290JCSS
A1C Jeffrey L. Fermil, 125LSF
A1C Michael Rodriguez, 125MXG
A1C Jackie R. Spiewak, 125MXG

Farewells

Lt Col Charles A. Schumacher, Assoc. Det.
CMSgt Paul Castillo, WRTC
CMSgt John T. Clay, 125CF
CMSgt Albert M. Pharo, 125MXG
CMSgt John E. Smallman, SEADS
MSgt Kevin D. Glass, 114CBCS
MSgt Stephen J. Hendrix, 125FW
MSgt Morgan O. Stokes, 125MXG

CCAF Grads

SMSgt Shawn Josi, 290JCSS
SMSgt James D. Lang, 125CES
MSgt Richard P. Bacon, II, SEADS
MSgt Roger R. LeBlanc, 202RHS
MSgt Susan M. Mason, 125FW
MSgt Mary L. Parker, SEADS
TSgt Virginia K. Boak, Assoc. Det.
TSgt Jessica M. Dahlquist, 159WF
TSgt David E. Giddens, 159WF
TSgt Ronald H. Harris, Assoc. Det.
TSgt Courtney A. Howardkirby, 290JCSS
TSgt Keith A. Montanus, 290JCSS
TSgt Sheryl L. Nelson, HQ/FLANG
SSgt Robert W. Crotts, 114CBCS
SSgt Richard N. Davis, 290JCSS
SSgt April L. Garnett, 125LRS
SSgt Drapier R. Johnson, 125AMS
SSgt Mark A. Laine, 114CBCS
SSgt Kelly G. Moore, 125MXS
SSgt Lee Pejsa, 125CES
SSgt Aaron D. Robinson, 125CES
SSgt Timothy A. Scarborough, 202RHS
SSgt Camille L. Wilson, 114CBCS
SSgt Christopher D. Wisham, SEADS
SSgt Matthew J. Zuk, 125AMS

Mark your Calendars!

The newly released IMAX film, “*Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag*” is opening Friday, May 27 at the World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater. Military members and their immediate families will be admitted for \$5 each with valid military ID. For more information regarding “*Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag*” call 904-940-4123.

The NGOA of Florida and ENGAF 2nd Annual Joint Conference will be held July 29-30, 2005 in Orlando, Florida, at the Rosen Centre Hotel on International Drive. For more information, visit: http://www.floridaguard.org/ngoa/conference_information.html.



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